



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

Back To School 2021 - 2022

Board of Regents Meeting
September 2021



Guiding Principles



**A foundation of
Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion**



**Service-oriented
approach through
technical assistance
and release of
guidance documents**



Welcome Back – Goals for 2021-22



**Be
Responsive
to student
needs**



**Health and
safety of
students
and staff**



**Maximize in-
person
teaching
and learning**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)



*"Diversity is not our problem. It is our promise."
-- Elijah Cummings*

WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED

- Diversity means a wide range of human qualities and attributes
- Diversity is an educational and social asset for ALL
- Respecting diversity helps us meet the physical, social and emotional needs of ALL



*"Always remember that you are absolutely unique.
Just like everyone else."
-- Margaret Mead*

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUCCEED

- Equity means fair treatment and opportunity for ALL
- Equity is fair access to programs, classes and needed supports
- Equity prepares ALL students to be actively engaged citizens



*"There is only one way to see things, until someone shows us
how to look at them with different eyes."
-- Pablo Picasso*

CULTURES, LANGUAGES AND EXPERIENCES

- Inclusion means recognizing, understanding and accepting ALL
- Inclusion teaches and models respect for ALL
- Inclusion makes ALL feel safe, supported and valued

Stakeholder Input on Back to School 2021-2022



In May 2021, the Commissioner hosted focus groups with stakeholders regarding back-to-school strategies.



The sessions provided field-based feedback regarding experiences during the COVID-19 Pandemic and how these experiences could guide the return to school for the 2021-2022 school year.

Summary of Overall Feedback

Question 1: What Worked?

- Ability to acclimate to e-platforms
- Increased communication and collaboration
- Flexible learning platforms

Question 2: What was Challenging?

- Student engagement/attendance
- Inequities in technology access
- Concurrent instruction – lack of personnel to teach students at home and online simultaneously

Question 3: What is Needed from the Department?

- Increased cross-sector communication & collaboration – consistency from CDC and state agencies
- Clarity/Guidance on local district obligations
- Clarity on whether a district will be required to offer remote instruction

Health and Safety Guide: 2021-2022 School Year

[Health and Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year](#) released on August 12 based on CDC and APA guidance.

Topics Covered:

- Vaccine promotion;
- Consistent and correct use of masks;
- Physical distancing;
- Screening testing to quickly identify positive cases;
- Improved ventilation;
- Proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette;
- Staying home when sick and getting tested;
- Contact tracing with isolation and quarantine; and
- Routine cleaning and disinfection.



Instructional Modality

Guidance provided to the field on School Opening:

- Open for in-person teaching and learning, and students should be in school
- Prepared to provide remote instruction
- LEAs may offer remote options when in the best educational interest of the student
- Consider the value of on-line capacity developed in response to the pandemic

[Teaching in Remote/Hybrid Learning Environments grant](#)

School Opening

NYS Education Department @NYSEDNews · Sep 2

Visit our website to access [#BackToSchool](#) information and resources on topics such as health and safety, social emotional learning, and digital learning. bit.ly/2YjVWzw

The screenshot shows a website layout with a red header 'Back to School'. Below it, a paragraph describes the department's collaboration with stakeholders to issue a guide for the 2021-2022 school year. To the right is a 'HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDE' section with 'Recent News' dated August 13, 2021, August 5, 2021, and August 5, 2021. Below the news are two columns: 'Back to School Resources' with an image of students and 'Health and Safety' with an image of a student wearing a mask. A 'CONTACT US' button is at the bottom right.

1 comment, 2 retweets, 1 like

NYS Education Department @NYSEDNews · Sep 1

The pandemic has affected each of us in different ways. The NYS School Mental Health Resource and Training Center provides mental health resources for students and their families. bit.ly/3kXA8DE @MHAacrossNYS #BackToSchool #WellnessWednesday

The graphic has a green header 'BACK TO SCHOOL' with the NYS ED logo. Below is a large green ribbon on the left and the words 'MENTAL HEALTH' in large, bold, green, distressed font on the right.

10 retweets, 13 likes

NYS Education Department @NYSEDNews · Aug 30

We're excited for students to start the school year, interact with their peers, and learn. At school, students learn social and emotional skills, eat healthy meals, get exercise, and receive other vital services. [#BackToSchool](#)

The graphic has a blue header 'Back to School' with the NYS ED logo. Below are three circular images: a boy giving a thumbs up, a girl talking to a teacher, and a girl wearing a mask.

1 comment, 3 retweets, 7 likes

NYS Education Department @NYSEDNews · Aug 31

What part of [#BackToSchool](#) season are you looking forward to most? We are looking forward to students having the opportunity to renew their focus on learning and reconnect with their peers and their passions.

The graphic has a blue header 'BACK TO SCHOOL' with the NYS ED logo. Below is a photo of a young girl wearing a yellow patterned face mask, looking towards the camera.

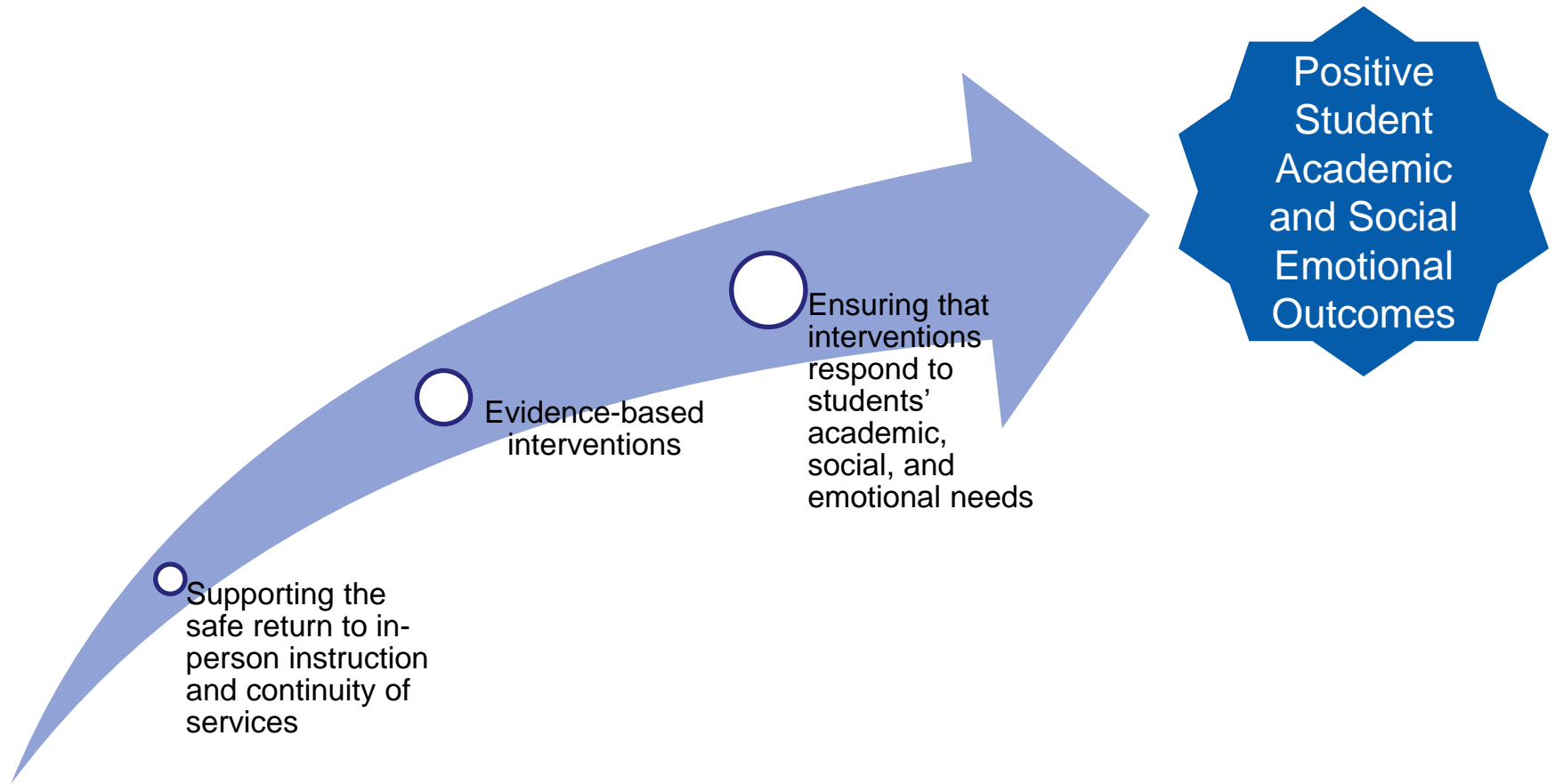
1 comment, 3 retweets

Coordination of Federal Funding

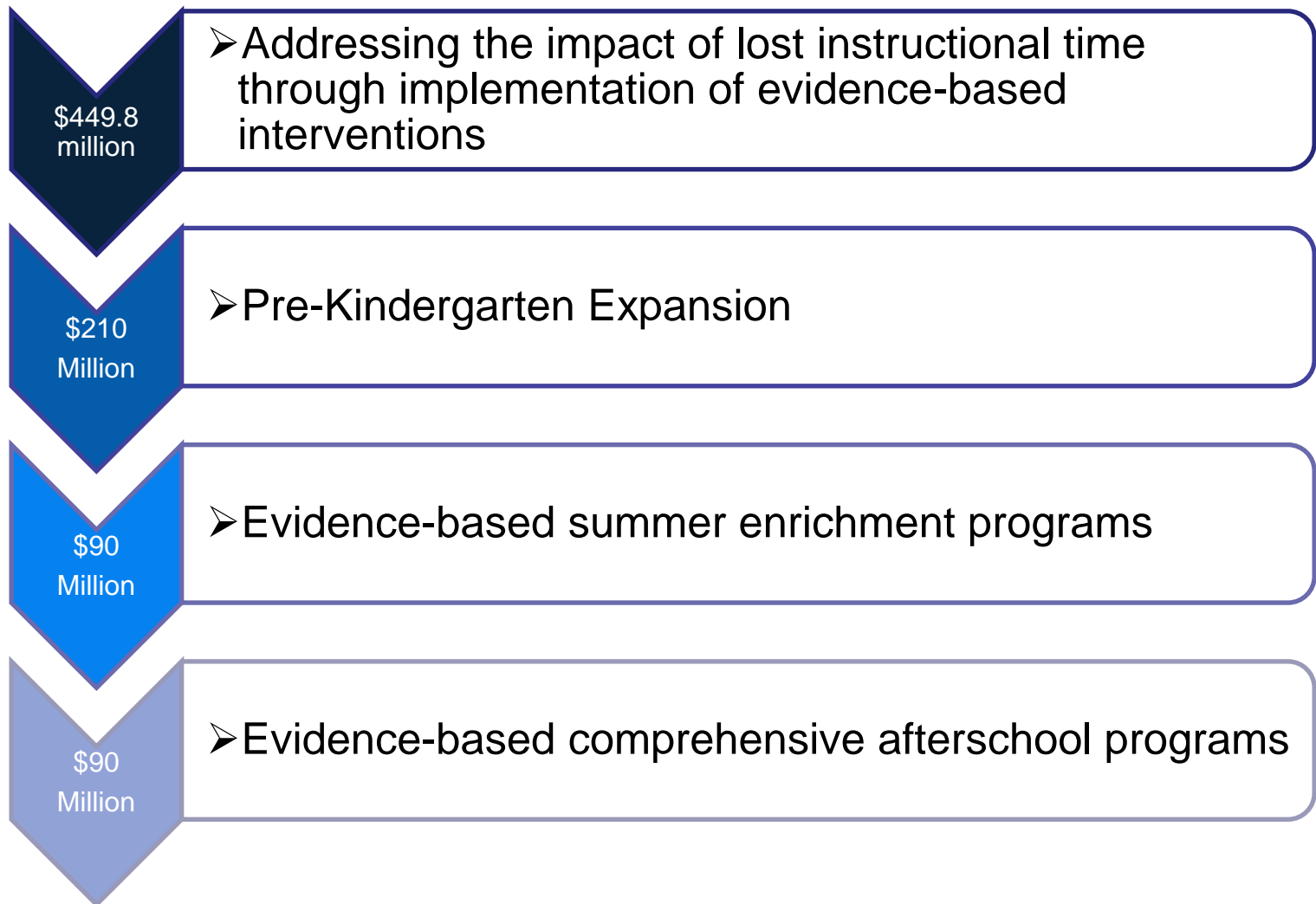
Over \$14 billion awarded to NYS in federal education COVID response funding:

Funding Source	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)	Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)/Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS)
CARES	\$1 billion	\$164.2 million
CRRSA	\$4 billion	\$322.9 million
ARP	\$9 billion	\$252.5 million

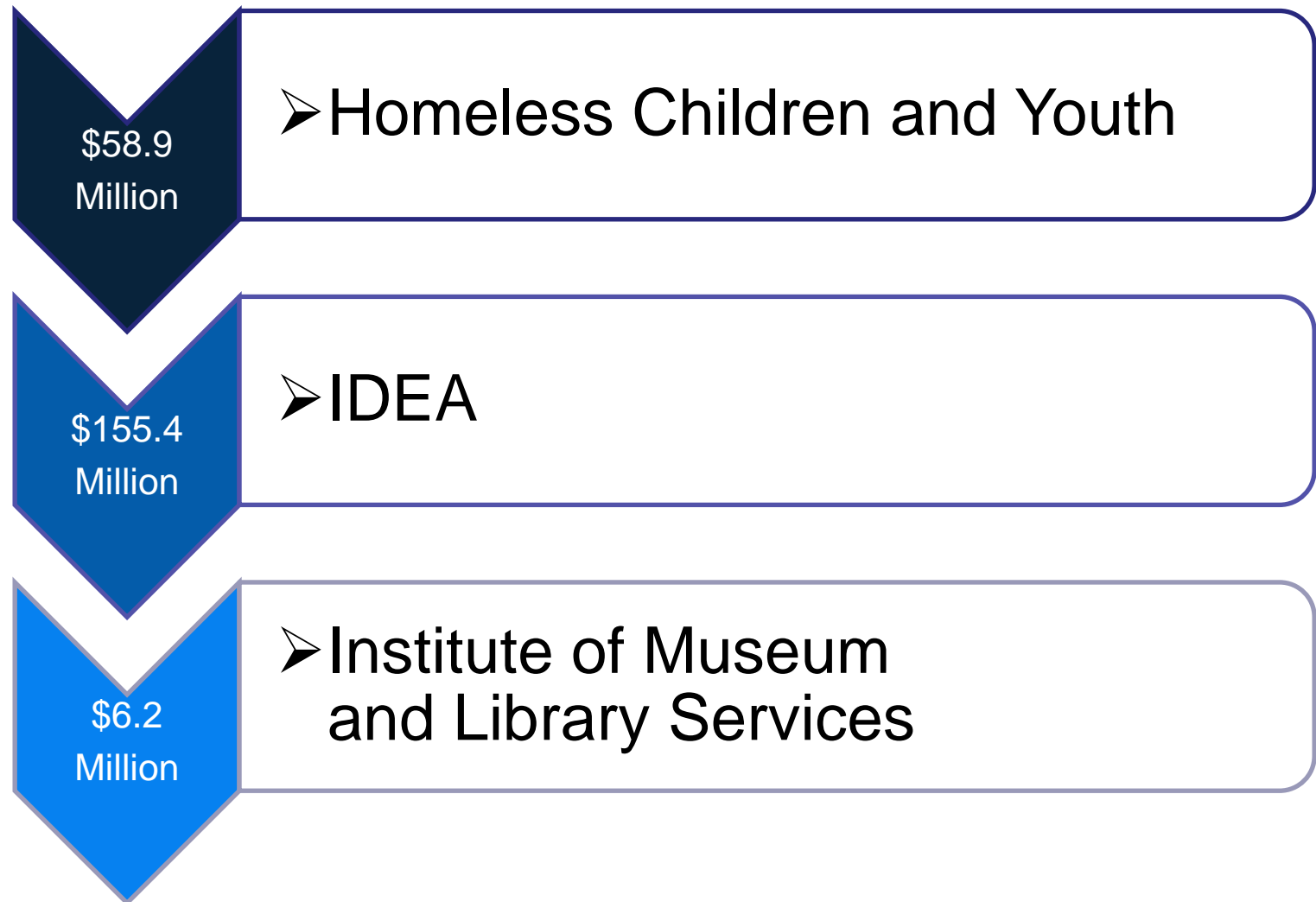
ARP Funding



ARP Interventions



Other ARP Interventions



ARP State and Local Plans

**Equitably
expanding
opportunity for
students**

Local Plans

Safe return to in-person instruction
and continuity of services

LEA Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER funds

Must be developed with public input

Plans must be publicly posted

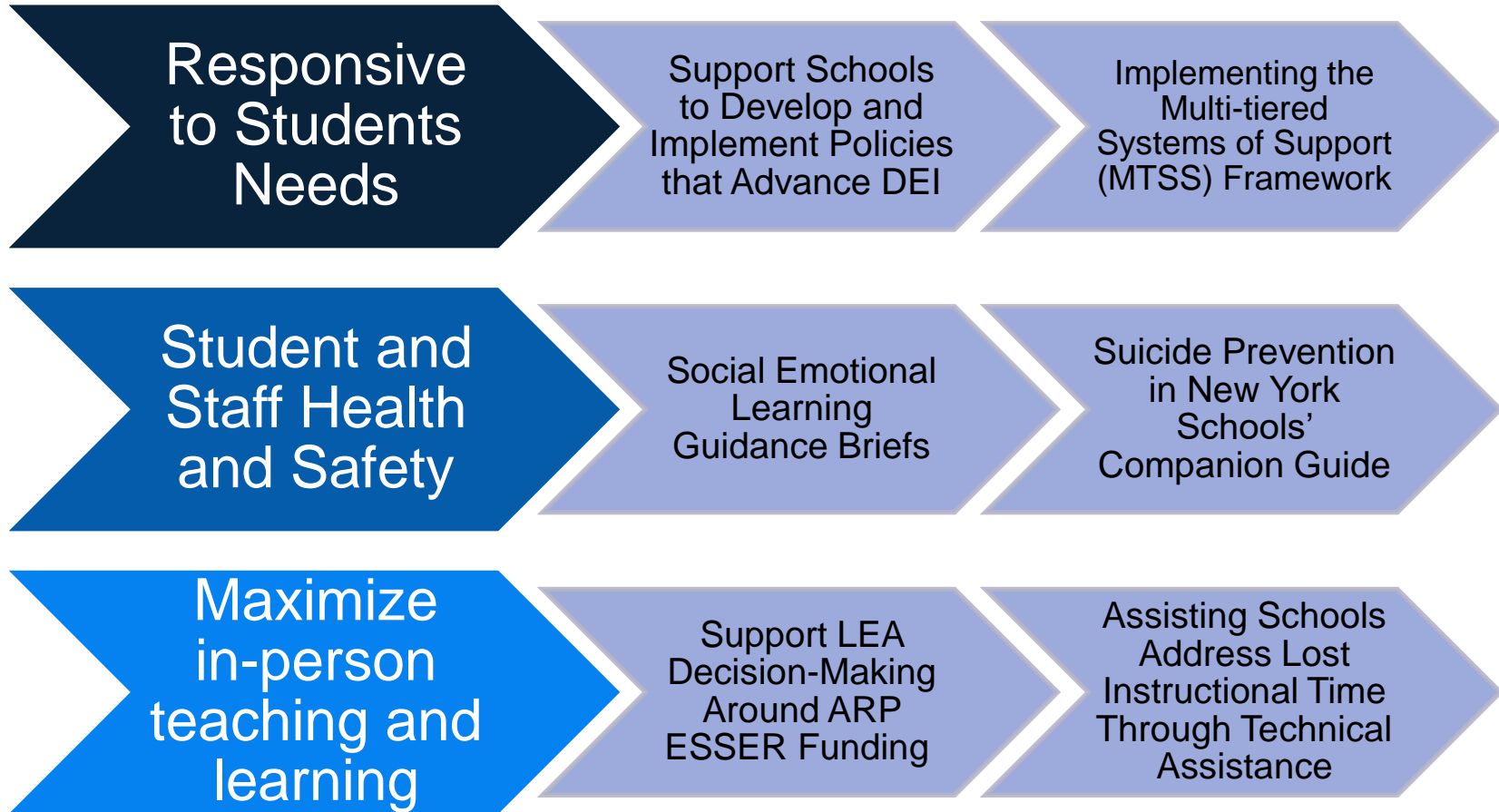
State Plan

Addressing lost instructional time and closing academic performance gaps

Providing social emotional support within a Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Framework

Implementing evidence-based interventions within multi-tiered support systems

Moving Forward – Service to the Field





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Questions?